

2

Approved For Release 2005/12/14 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000600200009-4

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
13 April 1984

CIA STATEMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS  
WASHINGTON

-----  
The CIA said Friday both the Senate and House Intelligence Committees were briefed in January and March on the agency's covert operation to mine Nicaraguan harbors.

The agency was responding to congressional criticism that members had not been fully informed of the controversial operation.

A CIA spokesman said the House Intelligence Committee was briefed on the mining project Jan. 31 and March 27 and the Senate panel was given details March 8 and March 14.

In a separate statement, Deputy CIA Director John McMahon denied a published report that he did not support the mining project.

The Washington Post Friday, quoting an unidentified source on who inspired the plan, had said CIA Director William Casey "cooked this whole thing up" and that McMahon thought the project "ill-conceived."

"I am anxious to refute the Washington Post's reference to my views on our Nicaraguan activities which appeared in its 13 April 1984 edition," McMahon said.

"While Director Casey encourages lively debate on all our intelligence proposals, he and I are one mind when it comes to agency programs, including those to counter the threat of the Sandinistas to the stability and peace of Central America. This position is also shared among other senior agency officials."

An intelligence source said that this concurrence embraced all CIA operations in Central America, including the mining.